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09/25/2013 Minutes

Arlington Master Plan Advisory Committee

Minutes: Sept. 25, 2013, 7:00-9:00 PM

Approved: October 3, 2013

Mural Room, Arlington Senior Center

Members present: Charles Kalaskas, Monica Tibbits-Nutt, Joe Barr, Pam Heidell, Bob Radochia
 Ann LeRoy, Harris Band

Members absent: Sheri Baron, Eric Bourassa, Greg Bowe, Carol Svenson

Also present: Consultant Judi Barrett (RKG Associates); Consultant Ezra Glenn; Christine Scypinski (ARB); Carol Kowalski, Laura Wiener, and Joey Glushko of the Planning Dept.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM. The minutes of Sept. 17, 2013 were unanimously approved.

Operating procedures – Carol Kowalski will prepare the operating procedures for the Committee; we expect to have them for the October 3 meeting.

Action: This topic will be put on the October 3 meeting agenda.

Report on Town Day Master Plan Booth observations – Charlie Kalaskas asked for observations from those who participated in coverage of the booth on Town Day; here are some of the observations that participants heard from the public:

More open space needed

Community center needed

Space to develop small start-up businesses/ companies; Carol Kowalski announced the October 16 program that Econ. Develop. Coord. Ted Fields is working on that will start discussions on just this topic; the forum will be in the Selectmen's Hearing Room, from 10-noon.

Promote historic landmarks; accommodate tourist busses

Stop out-of-scale development

Improve sidewalk safety; add pedestrian-activated crossing

Improve transit/transportation options for the aged; seniors are concerned re rising taxes and increases to the cost of living

Desire for an indoor pool

Housing issues – different housing options, control of rents,

Update/Improve the high school and jr. high school facilities

Look at transportation and parking throughout the Town

Support bike lanes on main roadways

It seems people want to see progress sooner, rather than later

What are the next steps in this process – especially for public participation?

Visioning process with Ezra Glenn - We worked on revisions to the August 1 version of the vision that Ezra Glenn had produced; both topic material, tone and word-smithing highlighted this discussion. Ezra will synthesize tonight's discussion into a revised version of the Vision Statement; it is realized that as working papers are developed for the elements of the plan that the vision statement may continue to be revised.

Action: Ezra Glenn will provide a revised Vision Statement by Tuesday, October 1 – so that it can be distributed to Committee members for review and discussion at the Thursday, October 3 meeting of the Committee.

Work on Goals for Master Plan Elements – There was not time to further discuss draft goals that Goals Working Groups had developed. This topic will be continued on October 3.

Action: Judi Barrett felt that the discussions and revisions of Sept 17 gave her satisfactory input and impression for her team to make additional revisions to remaining draft goals. She will make available to the MPAC a copy of the revisions by

October 1, so that discussion can proceed at the October 3 meeting.

Action: In preparation for the “baseline” report, due to the MPAC in mid-October, Monica T. and Judi Barrett will discuss their data points, sources, and formats so that a single version is presented to the public; they will work this out together as a working session.

Announcement – Carol Kowalski spoke of her meetings with the Board of Selectmen, Finance Committee and Redevelopment Board (ARB) to solicit Master Planning items from these Town Boards. These groups will consider this request, and get back to Carol. The ARB has particular interest in the concept of a Mill Brook Corridor; representing the ARB, Andy West would like to come before the MPAC on a future agenda.

Action: Put Andy West on a future agenda of the MPAC to present a focus on the Mill Brook Corridor

Action: Carol Kowalski will **work with Judi Barrett on a proposed schedule** for the MPAC and the consultants going into the new year; this will include appropriate timing for public participation and also a meeting for Town Meeting members before the 2014 Annual Town Meeting.

A brief discussion focused on alternative modes of gaining public comment on the Draft Baseline Report; suggestions included a large public meeting venue or ACMI interactive presentation; Harris Band suggested a questioning format, aimed at determining if the baselines presented match what the public experience is. The draft report is due October 18; the MPAC will meet on October 29 to discuss the content; a public discussion could be scheduled for the next meeting, Thursday, Nov. 7. Additional discussion on this topic is needed.

Public Comment – There were no visitors/comments this evening.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM
Minutes submitted by Joey Glushko